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Letter dated 25 July 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my delegation's capacity as representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, I have the honour to transmit herewith a communiqué issued by the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution of the African Union at its ninety-third ordinary session at the ambassadorial level, held in Addis Ababa on 24 July 2003 (see annex).

The communiqué contains decisions adopted on:

(a) The situation in Sao Tome and Principe;

(b) The situation in Liberia;

(c) The deployment of the African Mission in Burundi.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nuno **Tomás**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations
Representative of the Current Chairman

03-44472 (E) 300703

Annex to the letter dated 25 July 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the ninety-third ordinary session at ambassadorial level of the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution

24 July 2003, Addis Ababa

The Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held its 93rd ordinary session at Ambassadorial level in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 24 July 2003. The session was chaired by Ambassador Emmanuel Mendoume Nze, Permanent Representative of Gabon to the African Union (AU).

The Central Organ examined the situation in Sao Tomé and Principé, in light of the coup d'Etat which took place in that country on 16 July 2003; the situation in Liberia; and the deployment of the African Mission in Burundi, in accordance with its communiqué of 2 April 2003.

Ambassador Said Djinnit, Commissioner in charge of Peace and Security, briefed the Central Organ on the three issues under consideration. He also informed the Central Organ on the outcome of the visit to the Comoros, from 16 to 18 July 2003, of a Ministerial Delegation of the countries of the region and the AU Troika, as well as on the status of the signing and ratification of the Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council Protocol. The Central Organ also listened to the Head of the African Mission and Special Representative of the Interim Chairperson of the Commission in Burundi, Ambassador Mamadou Bah, and the Commander of the military component of the Mission, Brig. General Sipho Binda, on the situation in Burundi and the activities of the African Mission.

At the end of its deliberations, the Central Organ took the following decisions:

A. On the Situation in Sao Tome and Principe

The Central Organ:

1. **REITERATES** the unreserved condemnation by the AU of the coup d'Etat that took place in Sao Tome and Principe on 16 July 2003, and its commitment to the July 2000 Lome Declaration on the *Framework for an OAU Response to Unconstitutional Changes of Government* and the relevant principles enshrined in the AU Constitutive Act;

2. **WELCOMES** the statements made by the AU Chairperson, the Interim Chairperson of the AU Commission and the Current Chairman of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS);

3. **WELCOMES** the unanimous condemnation by the international community of the coup d'Etat in Sao Tome and Principe;

4. **ALSO WELCOMES** the successful resolution of the crisis, through the restoration of constitutional order and the return of the elected President, Mr. Fradique de Menezes, thanks to the determined efforts of the International Mediation made up of representatives of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), under the Chairmanship of the Republic of Congo, the African Union, the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) and Nigeria ;

5. **CALLS UPON** all the parties concerned to scrupulously respect the agreement concluded under the auspices of the International Mediation and, in this connection, **REQUESTS** the Interim Chairperson of the AU Commission, in close collaboration with ECCAS, to take the most appropriate initiatives to consolidate the results achieved;

6. **EXPRESSES** its grave concern over the resurgence of the scourge of coups d'Etat on the Continent and **REQUESTS** the Commission to make an in-depth review of the Lome Declaration, in light of the developments that have occurred since its adoption, in July 2000, and to submit to it, through its sub-Committee on Unconstitutional Changes of Government, for subsequent consideration by the competent policy organs of the AU, concrete proposals aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of the Declaration, including the rejection of any participation, in particular as candidates, of the perpetrators of coups d'Etat, or any other form of unconstitutional change, in elections organized to restore constitutional order;

7. **APPEALS** to the international community to support the principled position of the AU on the rejection of unconstitutional changes of Government;

8. **CALLS UPON** once again Member States that have not yet done so to become parties without delay to the Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council, whose entry into force will enable the AU to deal more effectively with unconstitutional changes of government.

B. On the situation in Liberia

The Central Organ:

1. **RECALLS** decision EX/CL/Dec.44 (III) on the situation in Liberia, adopted by the Executive Council at its third ordinary session, held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 4 – 8 July 2003;

2. **TAKES NOTE** of the Communiqué issued by the ministerial meeting of the Mediation and Security Council of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held in Dakar, Senegal, on 22 July 2003, and **FULLY SUPPORTS** the decisions taken during that meeting;

3. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the continued offensive by the LURD against Monrovia, as well as the indiscriminate and criminal attacks perpetrated against the civilian population, and **DECLARES ITSELF GRAVELY CONCERNED** by the catastrophic humanitarian conditions resulting from that situation;

4. **CALLS UPON** all the parties to the conflict to scrupulously observe the Ceasefire Agreement which they signed in Accra, Ghana, on 17 June 2003, and the international humanitarian law;

5. In conformity with the July 2000 Lome Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government and the relevant principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, **REAFFIRMS** that the AU shall not recognize any regime that would come to power by force of arms or by any other unconstitutional means, and shall scrupulously apply, against any such regime, the measures and sanctions stipulated by the Lome Declaration and the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

6. **COMMENDS** the ECOWAS countries under the chairmanship of President John Kufuor of Ghana, for the sustained efforts being deployed to restore peace and stability in Liberia;

7. **CALLS UPON** all the parties concerned to lend their full cooperation to the on-going mediation efforts deployed under the auspices of ECOWAS in Accra, Ghana, and to work resolutely and in all sincerity towards a negotiated settlement of the present conflict;

8. **WELCOMES** the decision by ECOWAS to deploy, in Monrovia, a Vanguard Force composed initially of two Nigerian battalions to be reinforced by additional troops, with the objective, among other things, of establishing zones of separation between the parties and forming the nucleus of an International Stabilization Force;

9. **MAKES AN URGENT APPEAL** to the United States Government, the European Union, the United Nations and other members of the international community to assist ECOWAS, in order facilitate the deployment of its Interposition Force, and take all the necessary measures towards the deployment of the International Stabilization Force, as envisaged in the 17 June 2003 Ceasefire Agreement;

10. **REQUESTS** the Interim Chairperson of the Commission to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the Chairperson of the African Union, to sensitise the international community and facilitate the mobilization of the requisite resources to sustain ECOWAS action and the deployment of its Force;

11. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to work closely with ECOWAS with a view to ensuring a speedy resolution of the conflict;

12. **REITERATES AU's GRAVE CONCERN** over the humanitarian situation in Liberia and **URGES** Member States and the international community at large to provide the requisite humanitarian assistance to the affected countries and populations, including refugees and displaced persons.

C. <u>On the Deployment of the African Mission in Burundi</u>

The Central Organ:

1. **RECALLS** decision EX/CL/Dec.39 (III) on the situation in Burundi adopted by the Executive Council during its 3rd Ordinary Session held in Maputo, from 4 to 8 July 2003 and **REITERATES** its support to the peace process conducted by the Regional Initiative for Peace in Burundi and the Mediation, with the support of the African Union, with the view to finding a speedy and lasting solution to the conflict in Burundi;

2. **WELCOMES** the results achieved by the African Mission in the accomplishment of its mandate, particularly the cantonment of the combatants of Jean Basco Ndayikengurukiye's CNDD-FDD and Alain Mugabarabona's PALIPEHUTU-FNL armed movements;

3. **ALSO WELCOMES** the encouraging results of the Regional Consultative Summit on Burundi held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, on 20 July 2003, particularly the commitment by the Transition Government of Burundi and the CNDD-FDD of Pierre NKURUNZIZA to work towards effective implementation of the 2 December 2002 Ceasefire Agreement;

4. **URGES** the PALIPEHUTU/FNL of Agathon Rwasa to join the peace process without any further delay, with the view to concluding a ceasefire agreement, and to put an immediate end to its attacks;

5. **EXPRESSES** the conviction of the AU that there currently exists a unique opportunity to achieve lasting peace and reconciliation in Burundi, which the Burundi parties and the international community have the absolute duty to seize upon;

6. **EXPRESSES** the serious concern of the African Union over the serious woeful inadequacy of financial and logistic resources, a constraint hampering the completion of the African Mission deployment and whose persistence could undermine the results thus far achieved in the implementation of the peace and reconciliation process in Burundi;

7. **REITERATES** Africa Union's urgent appeal to its Member States to contribute towards the funding of the African Mission pursuant to the decisions of the 91st Ordinary Session of the Central Organ, held on 2 April 2003, and the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union, held in Maputo, from 4 to 8 July 2003;

8. **FURTHER REITERATES** African Union's urgent appeal to the European Union and the United Nations, as well as to its bilateral partners and the international community at large, to urgently respond to African Union's request for assistance to ensure the full deployment and effective operationalization of the African Mission in Burundi;

9. **ENCOURAGES** the United Nations Mission in Burundi, the United Nations Agencies, the European Commission and all other competent organizations to continue to lend their support and cooperation to the African Mission, in particular with regard to the cantonment of combatants, in order to ensure the successful conclusion of the peace process in Burundi.